

VIA FACSIMILE 703-872-9306**PATENT**
Atty. Dkt. No.: 9D-DW-19324**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated December 3, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 13-17, and 19-22 are now pending in this application, of which Claims 10, 13-15, and 21 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 22 are allowed. Claims 13-15 and 21 are rejected. Claims 2, 6, 11-12, and 18 have been previously canceled.

The rejection of Claims 13-15 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,502,715 to Lundblade (hereinafter referred to as "Lundblade") is respectfully traversed.

Lundblade describes a latch assembly (28) for a picnic cooler (25) that includes a lid (26) hingedly secured to a container body (27). The latch assembly is mounted in a recess in the lid and includes a handle (29) and a latch (30). The latch extends below the handle and is adapted to be received in a recess (31) in the body. The handle and latch are both pivotally mounted in a mounting bracket (33). The latch assembly is assembled by inserting the handle and the latch between side walls (35) and (36) of bracket (33) and inserting four pins (49) through openings (50) in the side walls to pivotally mount the handle and latch (col. 4, lines 17-21).

Claim 21 recites a method for assembling a door latch assembly for a dishwasher, the latch assembly for securing a dishwasher door to a dishwasher tub assembly, the method including "mounting a keeper to the dishwasher tub; mounting a handle retainer to the dishwasher door; connecting the a handle to the handle retainer; and slidably coupling the keeper to the handle such that the handle is rotatable in a first direction and the keeper is rotatable in a second direction that is opposite the first direction".

Lundblade neither describes nor suggests a method for assembling a door latch assembly for a dishwasher, the latch assembly for securing a dishwasher door to a dishwasher tub assembly, and the method including mounting a keeper to the dishwasher tub, mounting a handle retainer to the dishwasher door, connecting the a handle to the handle retainer, and slidably

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coupling the keeper to the handle such that the handle is rotatable in a first direction and the keeper is rotatable in a second direction that is opposite the first direction. Moreover, Lundblade neither describes nor suggests mounting a keeper to a dishwasher tub and mounting a handle retainer and handle to a dishwasher door. Rather, Lundblade describes a latch assembly for a picnic cooler wherein a latch and handle are mounted to a common bracket on the cooler lid.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 21 is submitted to be patentable over Lundblade.

Claims 13-15 depend from Claim 21, and when the recitations of Claims 13-15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 21, Claims 13-15 are likewise submitted to be patentable over Lundblade.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 13-15 and 21 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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